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the medical Communist Party line. His position as editor-in-chief of this journal is apparently that of a watch dog whose primary function is to eliminate any such deviations found in contributions submitted to the journal. It may be that his appointment is indicative of a change in politics since the advent of Malenkov.

2. In this connection it should be mentioned that in the 1920's the editors of Soviet scientific journals were usually the most prominent scientists in their respective fields. During this period any valuable scientific articles, and only valuable scientific articles could be published in the journals. /sic/ In the 1930's a new system was introduced whereby each journal's editorial board had a so-called "secretary" whose function was similar to that of a political commissar. Each secretary had the job of checking on the editorial activities of the professors on the staff of his journal. A secretary could veto the publication of any articles submitted to the journal but in practice only did so in cases of obvious disagreement on the part of the authors with the principles of dialectical materialism.

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following World War II the role of these editorial secretaries received greater emphasis, and the screening of articles became much more strict. In most post-World War II journals professors seem to play no part in the decision as to what articles are to be accepted for publication.

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3. FIZIOLOGICHESKIY ZHURNAL is a very spectacular illustration of this system. Apparently all the articles in this journal must follow the patterns of the official scientific party line not only in the interpretation and discussion of experimental facts but also thematically. It may be that this situation is the result of Zhdanov's "militant materialism" offensive which he undertook shortly before his death whereby he started many attacks on scientists and other intelligentsia. In any case there has been an increase in the suppression of creative activity since Stalin's death. This is however only a feeling

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4. As is, of course, well known the official dogma of today in the medical field is the "materialistic physiology of Pavlov." It is perhaps needless to repeat that when Pavlov was living his investigations and doctrines were at least neglected if not actually criticized by the leading Soviet scientific lights, presumably because Pavlov was one of the few men in the USSR who permitted himself to criticize Communist policies. That he was not liquidated was due to his great popularity in "capitalistic countries" as was shown during his triumphant trips in the late 1920's to France, the UK and the US. He was of course partially tamed by the Soviets in his final years by pressure imposed by them on his family. Nevertheless he did retain a certain independence of action as exemplified by his refusal to submit any articles to Pravda. Various members of Pavlov's school were also either persecuted or ignored by the leaders of Soviet science up to the time of Pavlov's death. This situation changed after his death probably as a result of the many internal troubles of the 1930's and World War II. The materialistic physiology of Pavlov was established in the USSR as official dogma only in 1946 or 1947. It is peculiar that especially during the most recent years almost all the most prominent pupils of Pavlov eg Orbelli and Podkopayev, have been consistently criticized because of their alleged falsification of Pavlov's doctrines. In 1953, all remaining pupils of Pavlov who were not in complete agreement with the official Communist interpretation of Pavlov's work were also condemned. Such men as A G Ivanov-Smolenskiy and M A Usiyevich are in this category. Now, of all the prominent scientists of Pavlov's school only Bykov has not been criticized as yet. In this particular issue of FIZIOLOGICHESKIY ZHURNAL the criticism mentioned above is particularly noticeable and both Ivanov-Smolenskiy and Usiyevich are attacked.

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5. It will be remembered that in the early 1930's Pavlov was interested in clinical neurology and at this time he started to study this field and tried to interpret clinical manifestations in terms of conditioned reflex activity. He started his famous "Wednesday meetings" at which this field was discussed. Now, some 20 years later, the Communists have published so-called stenographic reports of these conferences. These reports are regarded by Pavlov's pupils as falsified or incorrect because quotations ascribed in them to Pavlov are in complete disagreement with his opinions as presented in his famous book and in his other various publications and those of his pupils which appeared during his lifetime. Generally speaking, official Communist party line in this field is based on these stenographic reports on the Wednesday conferences, and anyone who denies their authenticity is regarded as an enemy of the state.

6. This particular issue is devoted largely to a discussion of conditioned reflex activity in human beings. Two of the articles for example describe the peculiarities of this activity in old age and in children. It is interesting that the false Wednesday conference reports are not quoted by the authors of either of these articles. There is also a very interesting article about the physiological mechanism of experimental epilepsy written by the prominent scientist N A Rozhanshiy who is particularly well known in the UK. This article would probably be of some interest to a specialist in this field. The author's findings are more or less in agreement with the investigations of H H Jasper who is either a US or a British scientist. Another article by V D Glazer is concerned with conditioned effects on the pupillary reaction to light. This question has been studied by five or six US scientists who are quoted in the article. I A Bulygin in another article discusses the question of cortical regulation of unconditioned reflexes of the stomach. Reciprocal effects (ie of the stomach on the cortex) were experimentally established. In subsequent articles conditioned reflexes from carotid chemoreceptors, conditioned respiratory vascular reflexes and conditioned reflexes of venous pressure were discussed. [redacted] another article which concerned the changes of reflex reactions of the spinal cord. Recently [1951] some US and German scientists admitted the possibility of the existence of conditioned reflexes of the spinal cord but concluded that this field needed additional investigation because experimental evidence was insufficient. The Soviet authors of this particular article, N M Shamarina and T N Nesmeyanova deny categorically this possibility. Finally, [redacted] an article by V S Shapot and others concerned with aviation medicine. Their experiments with the barokamera (БАРОКАМЕРА) are described. Their experiments showed that excited animals are more susceptible to the ill effects of anoxia.

7. In addition to the above there are many short reports of a methodical character of possible interest to specialists. There are also some critical articles. There is a bibliographic summary of 10 pages listing all material on Pavlov written between May 1952 and April 1953. Interesting as a curiosity is a historical review on a prominent pre-revolutionary pathologist from St Petersburg named Pashutin. In 1885 he edited a handbook of pathology which was translated into many foreign languages. Recently a Communist author published a book which criticized Pashutin for his "vitalistic concepts and antagonism to Pavlov" even though Pashutin was working 75 years ago! In the article in the journal Prof P N Veselkin defends Pashutin and says that by no means was he an enemy of Pavlov.

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8. This journal's place in Soviet medicine corresponds to that of the Journal of the American Medical Association in US medicine except that it does not contain the professional news that the AMA journal does.

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12. The first article in this particular issue is by V E Salishchev, a very prominent surgeon who now must be in his 80's since his work was well known 40 years ago. His article appeared to me to be a very valuable review of pre-operative and post-operative management of surgical patients. It contains nothing new from the point of view of contemporary US surgery except for greater emphasis on the role of the emotional equilibrium of the patient before and after surgery.
13. In another article Prof R N Akhrem-Akhremovich gives a very interesting clinical description of the effects of opisthorchis felineus (Siberian liver fluke) a very unusual disease which is mentioned only briefly in Cecil's textbook. Akhremovich incidentally was arrested in 1936-37 and, as a result, though now a professor is located in Siberia. From an article by Ye I Rebikov it appears that contemporary Soviet hematologists recommend the presentation of the differential leucocyte count not in percentages but in absolute figures. This issue also contains two articles concerned with the influences of climatic and other meteorological factors on the course of hypertensive disease.
14. In still another article I S Rutshteyn describes the allergic syndrome simulating acute abdominal pain. Two more articles are concerned with the effects of brain wounds or concussions on liver functions and circulation. V Ye Fradkina discussed changes in the protein content of the blood in gastric and duodenal ulcers from the point of view of indications for operations. A A Umanskiy in an article emphasizes the importance of intestinal tube examination in cases of chronic enteritis. G I Alekseyev describes the use of dimerdrol, the Soviet equivalent of benedril and states that it may be helpful in the treatment of some allergic conditions such as penicillin reactions. The use of this drug is apparently popular in the USSR. S M Freydlin describes 15 cases of prolapse of the mucosa of the pyloric part of the stomach into the duodenum. This article is illustrated with x-ray photographs of the poor quality customarily encountered in Soviet journals. I should mention that this particular condition was frequently described in US literature in the period 1945-49. Freydlin quotes the name of Scott, a US investigator, but only in the bibliography and not in the article.

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16. The historical section contains a review of the activity of the famous dermatologist A G Polotebnov who died in 1892. The author does not criticize him.

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